

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting
February 17, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building**

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Sen. James Bryan, Dr. William Gummerson, Ms. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Douglas McTeer, Sen. Nikki Setzler, Mr. Henry Spann, Mr. Robert Staton, Mrs. Lynn Thompson, Rep. Ronald Townsend, Mr. Stefan Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members to the meeting. Senator Setzler spoke his appreciation to Mrs. Trisha Bockus and acknowledged her service to the EOC, the EIA-Select Committee, the State Department of Education and the SC education community. He also commented that Mr. Barnet had received the "Champions of Education" Award from the SC Schools Boards Association for his contributions to Pine Street Elementary School and the Spartanburg County districts.

II. Remarks from Mr. Emerson Gower

Emerson Gower, Chairman of the SC Chamber of Commerce Council for Excellence in Education, addressed the EOC. Mr. Gower addressed the involvement of the Chamber in several projects connecting business and education. He cited "Skills That Work", a 1998 project and the 1999 Report "Focus on Teacher Quality." The report included recommendations for teacher preparation, strengthening the standards for certification, increased pay for teachers. He endorsed classroom accountability through the implementation of ADEPT. Mr. Gower briefly described the trips to Texas and North Carolina in which some EOC members had participated. He also discussed the High Performance Partnerships, funded by a Gear-Up Grant.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Gummerson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He acknowledged the incorporation of EOC-recommendations in the science standards. He presented recommendations regarding the Social Studies Standards. The recommendations were approved for transmittal to the State Superintendent of Education.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee is conducting three (3) comprehensive evaluations of EIA programs as a part of its work.

The programs include the following: Child development programs for four-year-olds; Black history; and the Advanced Placement program.

- C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She indicated that legislation had been introduced in the Senate by Senators Bryan and Setzler with 27 co-sponsors. Representative Townsend is to introduce legislation in the House. Mr. Barnet thanked Mrs. Thompson for her leadership and officially designated Stefan Wilson as the chair of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin referred members to the written report and indicated that the SC Broadcasters' Association had agreed to focus on the EOC announcements.
- E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson presented the DRAFT EOC Annual Report for approval. The report was approved with the inclusion of a statement about the Local Leadership study team.

Dr. Siskind presented a report on the relationship of potential report card data elements and PACT or Exit Exam performance. Rep. Townsend distributed copies of a letter to Mr. Barnet asking that the performance indicator for prime instructional time be reviewed to ensure that it does not discourage professional development. Mr. McTeer asked that the staff explore options for including the schools ratings of similar schools.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Gary Melton, Clemson University, presented information and research on parent involvement. He highlighted critical factors including involvement of fathers, summer experiences and the need for schools to respond to the changing nature of families.

VI. **General Discussion**

There was no general discussion. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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